

**June 3, 2024**

**City Council Special Meeting for Public Input**



**Agenda Item #2A**

**Public Input**

**Speaker's Cards & Written Comments Received**

**Speaker's Cards** – *In order of receipt*

- **Speaker 1**– Patricia Burke
- **Speaker 2**–Mike Allen

**Written Comment** – *In order of receipt*

- **Item 1** – Sarah Raleigh
- **Item 2**– John Raleigh
- **Item 3**– Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Item 4**– Christine Thomas
- **Item 5**– Alice Fernandez
- **Item 6**– Michael Goss
- **Item 7**– Dave Braley
- **Item 8**– Karl Fernandez

- **Item 9**– Susan Jones
- **Item 10**– Jennifer French
- **Item 11**– John Dublin

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Speaker's Card\)](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Sun, 06/02/2024 - 6:06pm  
35.132.171.76

#### Name

Patricia (Pat) Burke

#### Brief Overview of What You Wish to Discuss

Concerns about the exclusionary provisions of the proposed City code for emergency and temporary sheltering.

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

No

#### Name of Organization

n/a

#### Residence Address

82758 Cherry Street, Westlake, OR 97493

#### Email

huberburke@gmail.com

#### Phone Number

541-590-3598

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25888/submission/30769>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-speakers-card>

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Speaker's Card\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Mon, 06/03/2024 - 3:04pm

35.132.165.39

#### Name

Michael Allen

#### Brief Overview of What You Wish to Discuss

Draft proposed City Code - how it will impact sheltering on County, State and Federal undeveloped land.

Does the code apply to Hurd Memorial Park?

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

No

#### Name of Organization

#### Residence Address

87490 Rhodowood Drive

#### Email

mike.pat.allen@outlook.com

#### Phone Number

5054017762

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25888/submission/30775>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-speakers-card>

We need a larger community response to end homelessness among our neighbors. And I would so love ♥♥ to hear any ideas and or solutions (large and small) from those who strongly oppose giving a hand up and/or a hand out.

A task team or two or three ☺ ☺ >> could and should be created to help our City explore all of the possibilities and opportunities for all mentioned above.

Here are just two of many resources I learned from recently:

<https://www.usich.gov/news-events/news/using-shelter-strategically-end-homelessness>

<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/what-can-and-cant-local-government-do-to-address-homelessness/>

### **Do you Represent an Organization?**

no

### **Name of Organization**

n/a

### **Residence Address**

2190 13th Street - Florence OR 97439

### **Email**

jpfrench5450@gmail.com

### **Phone Number**

5419995450

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25888/submission/30776>

### **Links**

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-speakers-card>

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Written Comment\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Thu, 05/30/2024 - 9:57am

45.41.255.209

#### Name

Sarah Raleigh

#### Written Comments Section

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the City Code. Every street in Florence that is not in a gated community is effectively a campground. It is perfectly appropriate for the City of Florence to have guidelines as to when and where people can camp. The quality of life and my business are negatively affected by street camping. My home is located in the only place in Florence with public restrooms open 24/7. The City of Florence has effectively put a beacon for campers to come to my neighborhood.

The cities of McMinnville and Newport enacted a similar code in 2018 and 2022, respectively. Their city governments have taken a proactive approach to protecting neighborhoods and businesses for the ill effects of camping. It is perfectly reasonable for the City of Florence to enact similar measures. Every street in Florence should not be a campground.

I appreciate the City Council working to update the City Code and I am hopefully it will be enacted soon.

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

Yes

#### Name of Organization

Edwin K Bed & Breakfast

#### Residence Address

1155 Bay Street, Florence, OR 97439

#### Email

sarahraleigh@outlook.com

#### Phone Number

5414502946

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25851/submission/30761>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-written-comment>

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Written Comment\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Thu, 05/30/2024 - 9:42am

71.25.147.193

#### Name

John Raleigh

#### Written Comments Section

Once again, I would like to thank the city and the council for all of the work on this new sheltering proposal. As a resident of Old Town, our business has been negatively impacted by the current sheltering rules and look forward to the new policies being put in place with an appropriate enforcement mechanism. I would hope they could be implemented prior to the busy summer season as we have already seen an influx of street campers in front of our business. Unfortunately, the city continues to provide portable toilets in the Lotus parking lot that is a key attraction for those looking to spend the night. By prohibiting sheltering/camping in old town we would hope to see a drastic reduction in campers. Our business is impacted by people sleeping in their cars on our street or directly outside of our business. Our customers get to see people get out of their cars and walk to the bathroom in pajamas or worse. We have had numerous customers question as why is this allowed and have expressed frustration with what they see. We operate a hospitality business that drives business to the Florence community and safety, appearance and cleanliness are very important. Thank you.

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

Yes

#### Name of Organization

Edwin K Bed & Breakfast

#### Residence Address

1155 Bay Street

#### Email

johnraleigh65@gmail.com

#### Phone Number

5415254414

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25851/submission/30760>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-written-comment>

## City Recorder

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**From:** Erin Reynolds  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:38 PM  
**To:** City Recorder  
**Cc:** Wendy Farley-Campbell  
**Subject:** FW: Temporary Sheltering Code

Please include in the written record for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

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**From:** Bettina Hannigan <bettina@florencechamber.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:17 PM  
**To:** Rob Ward <rob.ward@ci.florence.or.us>; Sally Wantz <sally.wantz@ci.florence.or.us>; Jo Beaudreau <jo.beaudreau@ci.florence.or.us>; Robert Carp <robert.carp@ci.florence.or.us>; Bill Meyer <bill.meyer@ci.florence.or.us>; Erin Reynolds <erin.reynolds@ci.florence.or.us>  
**Subject:** Temporary Sheltering Code

Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce to express our appreciation for the City Council's ongoing work on the Temporary Sheltering Proposed Code. We are pleased with the overall direction and the thoughtful approach you are taking in addressing this critical issue.

We commend your efforts to create a balanced solution that supports a healthy and safe environment for all residents while also protecting and fostering safe and pleasant spaces for our businesses, schools, churches, and the broader community. Your commitment to maintaining a thriving community is evident in the inclusive and comprehensive process you have adopted.

While this letter is not an endorsement, it reflects our optimism about the steps being taken and the transparent, collaborative process you are following. We are confident that your continued dedication will lead to policies that benefit everyone in Florence.

Thank you for your hard work and for considering the needs of all community members. We look forward to staying engaged and supporting your efforts as this important process continues.

Kindly,

*Bettina Hannigan*, [IOM](#)  
President & CEO





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Florence Chamber of Commerce

541.997.3128 x 3

[www.FlorenceChamber.com](http://www.FlorenceChamber.com)

## City Recorder

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**From:** Christine Thomas <babysoft777@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 1, 2024 5:02 PM  
**To:** City Recorder  
**Cc:** Sally Wantz; Patricia Martin Huber  
**Subject:** Written Comment: The purpose of this meeting is for the City Council to gather public input regarding the draft proposed City Code establishing time, place, and manner policies for event-based emergency shelters and temporary sheltering

Dear Florence City Council Members:

In writing, I'm submitting my written comment for the above-referenced policies around finding shelter with limited or zero resources.

I'd like to remind the council that when a population doesn't trust those doing the counting, they are very adept at remaining invisible and uncounted. There are far more people living without resources and housing in our community than we are able to count, many of which are children, mentally ill, and extremely poor.

Secondly, I'd like to remind you, issuing fines, fees, citations create a record that makes it far more unlikely that these same persons will ever qualify when they apply for housing, work, or to pass any type of a credit review adding to the burden of those who are already without a voice and without resources. These fines and fees, further bury those subject to them in the 'no way out' scenario.

I do not see any mention within this policy, or the process so far, where there is a single mention of where those who find themselves without shelter CAN find rest. Where are people who are experiencing these challenges to go to do the simplest of tasks that provide human dignity, such as bathroom facilities, drinking water, sleeping?

Writing a policy, which adds fines, fees, and a record of violations without providing an alternative place to stay and find services is in fact "criminalizing poverty." Florence is permitting and building homes in the 'high market value' every single day. Surely it can find resources and creative solutions to maintain the dignity of those with far fewer resources, voice and finances? We can do better.

I urge you to find solutions and resources as alternatives to the lists of 'not in my backyard' park, school, church; which encourage, uplift and give real solutions to what those finding themselves without shelter CAN do and where they CAN rest.

Thank you for consideration of my comment/submission.

Best regards,

Christine Thomas  
(916) 893-0761

*...if I know anything at all, it's that a wall is just a wall and nothing more at all. It can be broken down. --assata shakur*

*Sent from Christine's iPad*

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Written Comment\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Sun, 06/02/2024 - 8:54pm

35.149.187.120

#### Name

Alice Fernandez

#### Written Comments Section

This letter is to OPPOSE the city of Florence providing temporary shelters. Temporary shelters should be provided by private and not-for-profit organizations, not provided by the city and ESPECIALLY NOT USING CITY/PUBLIC LANDS.

There are many issues that will arise through the city providing temporary shelter and/or CITY LAND for temporary shelters. Here is a list of a few that I can see being an issue, and there are always other issues that are unforeseen until a venture is operational:

- Funds for running the temporary shelter
- Legal issues that will arise from the temporary shelters
- Liability
- Sanitation concerns
- Storage concerns for houseless individuals' private belongings
- Utilities
- Security
- Cost of maintenance and cleanup
- Need to hire, train, and pay individuals to run the temporary shelter
- Vacating the land to change it from a temporary shelter if the city/public people of Florence would like to sell and/or use the public land for another use

As a registered nurse working in Florence, there are a lack of medical and mental health resources for the current Florence population. Opening up public owned lands for houseless individuals will create a further strain on an already burgeoning problem.

How can the city provide a temporary shelter when it does not even have enough financial and service resources for its current residences?

The following multi-judge opinion is that the homeless problem is not a constitutional or legal issue:

“Local leaders—and the people who elect them— must be allowed the latitude to address on the ground the distinctly local features of the present crisis of homelessness and lack of affordable housing. Not every challenge we face is constitutional in character. Not every problem in our country has a legal answer that judges can provide.” From Justia US Law:

<https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/ca9/20-35752/20-35752-2023-07-05.html>

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

No

#### Name of Organization

**Residence Address**

37 Bambi Ct

**Email**

AliceFernandez77@gmail.com

**Phone Number**

9092413443

**Source URL:**<https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25851/submission/30770>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-written-comment>

## City Recorder

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**From:** Michael Goss <mgoss35@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:06 AM  
**To:** City Recorder; Bill Meyer; Jo Beaudreau; Rob Ward; Robert Carp; Sally Wantz; mgoss35x@verizon.net  
**Subject:** 43rdExclusion

Council Members

My name is Michael Goss and I represent not only myself but the Homeowners of Sandpines East on Nandina Drive which 43rd Street runs into. We are asking/begging you to add 43rd Street between Hwy 101 and Oak Street to the Shelter Exclusion Map. Since moving here 5 years ago we have had to put up with transients in their old junk, never currently registered, Motorhomes/Trailers living on 43rd. We have had 2-3 lined up on the north side of 43rd Street at a time. I've worked with Code Enforcement for years trying to keep 43rd free of transients. One problem is Code Enforcement is a Part-time position Tuesday-Saturday and this is a Full-time problem. The new Code has helped keep them away 14 days after they were cited but most return. I've had a meeting with Chief Pitcher and Code Enforcement at the Florence PD. on this matter.

One problem being that on the south side of 43rd Street is the Siuslaw Dunes low-income apartments that houses dozens of children. On school days dozens of kids walk next to these transient vehicles/encampments to get to the School Bus stop at the north-west corner of 43rd and Oak. You don't know if any of these transients are Sex Offenders or Child Predators, YOU DON'T. We do not need those young children near any of these people. I have personally seen drug dealing by the transients on many occasions and I'm sure so have the children.

On one occasion we had a known heroin addict transient that was living in an old junk trailer on 43rd go through the entrance gate at Florence Golf Agronomy. She went down the cart path and entered our back gate. She then went around to the side of the house where my wife was gardening. Surprised to see my wife, she tells my wife she was just trying to get to the street. No, my neighbor has no fence around his property and she could have walked through his yard to get to the street. She was looking to steal something. This is just one of many issues we have had with transients on 43rd and have called the Police more than once.

As I write this there are 3 transient vehicles on the north side of 43rd Street. Lined up end to end are a Class-A and a Class-C Motorhome and an old junk Trailer that was dropped off !!!...The Class-A showed up Friday and its 72 hours was up on Monday afternoon but I couldn't call C.E. because he is off till Tuesday. I called Tuesday but because Monday was a Holiday the C.E. won't be back in the office till Wednesday. That's why I call Code Enforcement part-time. The Class-A finally left Thursday after being there 6 days. That's a problem...They are allowed to stay too long in front of the children at Siuslaw Dunes Apartments.

You add the 10-12 Fred Myers shopping carts that are ALWAYS near the N-W end of 43rd. An occasional old couch or old mattress dumped across the street from the apartments. The un-landscaped un-cared for bushes that are full of human/dog feces/urine along the Les Schwab back lot and then add three transient vehicles all lined up. It's really sad and we think it doesn't represent the City of Florence

I have documented the last 5 years in a pic file...I've sent a couple

PLEASE TAKE TOUR YELLOW SHARPIE AND DRAW A LINE THROUGH 43rd Street and ADD 43rd Street TO THE "SHELTER EXCLUSION MAP", Thanks you for your time

Michael Goss

4261 Nandina Drive

mgoss35x@verizon.net









June 2, 2024

To: Mayor and City Councilors  
Florence City Hall  
Re: Proposed Temporary Sheltering Code

I have reviewed the proposed temporary sheltering code, maps, and materials provided on the city website for your June 3, 2024 meeting. The modifications from the earlier drafts are improvements and I am generally in support of the package. However, I continue to have concerns for two subjects.

**Munsel Creek Bike/Pedestrian Path**

This paved path has long been a primary pedestrian thoroughfare that follows undeveloped street rights-of-way through a beautiful native forest area. It is a gem that residents are proud to have in their city. Until recent times, it has been enjoyably walked by many residents each day. I know this because I normally walk it as a portion of my daily walk. Resident usage has dropped off substantially in recent times as the number of tent and other camps along the path continues to increase, as more and more of the native vegetation is cleared or destroyed, as camp debris of all types grows, and as the frequency residents encounter persons deemed threatening increases. One couple who walk most days told me they no longer use the path west of Spruce that they now believe is unsafe. That is likely the tip of the iceberg among residents. This needs to be corrected.

Between Spruce and Quince, the Bike Path generally parallels Munsel Creek at a distance varying from roughly 50 to 200 feet. Much damage has been done to natural vegetation in significant portions of this area by the campers. Due to the extensive camping and resulting debris, some of the slopes in the riparian area to the edge of Munsel Creek have been used as dumping grounds for all kinds of un-natural stuff. Some of the transients are virtually permanent occupants. They try to hide or camouflage their camping sites and are within 75-100 feet from the path, providing them quick access.

As the premier residential walking path, Munsel Creek Bike/Pedestrian Path needs more protection than the current draft states. I recommend the following for 1-9-2-3-A-1(m)

**m. The greater of visual line of sight or within 200 feet of the Munsel Creek Bike/Pedestrian Path.**

**Munsel Creek Riparian Area**

Munsel Creek forms a relatively narrow 200+ feet long oxbow between lots on Primrose Lane and the lots on 13<sup>th</sup> Street in the Munsel Creek Estates development. The map should be revised to show this as there is sufficient land in the oxbow that some campers have used this riparian area adjacent to the creek.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dave Braley  
2217 Primrose Lane  
Florence

Published on *City of Florence Oregon* (<https://www.ci.florence.or.us>)

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Written Comment\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Mon, 06/03/2024 - 9:31am

35.149.187.120

#### Name

Karl Fernandez

#### Written Comments Section

City of Florence City Council,

This wrutten comment is to oppose any shelter privileges that City Manager Erin Renyolds and her staff want to create in the City of Florence. Although, I feel there are many reasons why to say NO, this email will only focus on one direction. I will draw attention to the public sector not private.

I've lived in Florence for past two years and I see a big problem with individuals taking advantage of the city in Code Violations. From illegal RV parking (everywhere in the city) to code violations 6-5-1: JUNKED VEHICLES PROHIBITED, 6-5-2: ACCUMULATED A NUISANCE, 6-1-2-4: PROHIBITED LODGING, 6-1-2-5: DRINKING IN PUBLIC, 6-1-2-7: URINATING OR DEFECATING. I have contacted Code Enforcement Officer (Dan Frazier) about various violations, some get addressed some don't. At the end of the day the City of Florece is still the same, code violators throughout the city.

Here's my question to the City of Florence; how can one Code Enforcement Officer try to enforce the violators we have present and then take on a whole new set of violators in allowing emergency shelters and temporary sheltering? Also, if the city wants to do something (sell, build etc.) with city property and individuals are staying at emergency shelters and temporary sheltering, how do you get individuals to move out?

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

NO

#### Name of Organization

#### Residence Address

37 Bambi Ct.

#### Email

fern.fam7@yahoo.com

#### Phone Number

9097317147

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25851/submission/30772>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-written-comment>

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Written Comment\)](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Mon, 06/03/2024 - 12:52pm

35.132.160.160

#### Name

Susan Jones

#### Written Comments Section

My husband and I were grateful to be part of the Cold Weather Shelter providing hot meals and words of encouragement to our Florence neighbors. I am asking the Florence City Council to support these wonderful groups.

#### Do you Represent an Organization?

No

#### Name of Organization

#### Residence Address

4 Marielle Lane

#### Email

[sjones@peak.org](mailto:sjones@peak.org)

#### Phone Number

5413051701

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25851/submission/30774>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-written-comment>

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#### Submission information

Form: [6.3.24 City Council Special Meeting for Public Input \(Speaker's Card\)](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Mon, 06/03/2024 - 3:21pm  
35.132.170.254

#### Name

Jennifer French

#### Brief Overview of What You Wish to Discuss

Hello City Councilors,

I can't be with you tonight (June 3) at your very important work session, but I will be watching you on channel 191 and I'm with you in Spirit.

As my spouse, Sally Wantz, knows, I love to do research! One of my favorite things to do in life is to google and learn new things, each & every day. How I wrote and got published two books without having a computer>>> I'll never know. I do know that I 'lived' at the library in the early 80's, with my pen and paper, doing research for my books on ADHD and Runaway Teenagers.

Back to my reason for writing you today. I've researched the 'UNhoused' situation in Florence and beyond and have found a great deal of interesting information- which has led me to ask a few questions of you, our City representatives and for our community-at-large.

\* Is Florence a recipient of state and federal aid that can be used to address homelessness? Have we been a recipient of money in the past and used it for these purposes?

\*Do we have a City employee who takes an inventory of our city buildings (and land) to determine if there are any underutilized buildings and land that may be good candidates for converting to affordable safe shelters?

\*Do we have someone in town who is responsible for approaching land and home owners (and perhaps absentee & slum lords) and encourages the sale of their property>>> perhaps using the above mentioned state & federal aid as incentives to specifically create safe shelters?

\* Is there someone for the City who uses the guidance provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)? And who do they report their findings to?

\*The best way to help our homeless population is to house them and support them with services to help them find stable employment, health care and child care services. Does the City help our UNhoused population find employment, health care and child care?

From all of my research and what I've learned recently, here are some of my conclusions:

Our City and its citizens must embrace more innovation and change in order to create new shelters and strengthen the emergency shelters our community does have.

We must create more pathways > person-centered pathways – OUT of being UNhoused.

We need a larger community response to end homelessness among our neighbors. And I would so love ♥♥ to hear any ideas and or solutions (large and small) from those who strongly oppose giving a hand up and/or a hand out.

A task team or two or three ☺ ☺ >> could and should be created to help our City explore all of the possibilities and opportunities for all mentioned above.

Here are just two of many resources I learned from recently:

<https://www.usich.gov/news-events/news/using-shelter-strategically-end-homelessness>

<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/what-can-and-cant-local-government-do-to-address-homelessness/>

### **Do you Represent an Organization?**

no

### **Name of Organization**

n/a

### **Residence Address**

2190 13th Street - Florence OR 97439

### **Email**

jpfrench5450@gmail.com

### **Phone Number**

5419995450

**Source URL:** <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/node/25888/submission/30776>

### **Links**

[1] <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/6324-city-council-special-meeting-public-input-speakers-card>

## City Recorder

---

**From:** John <slamcam777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 3:33 PM  
**To:** City Recorder  
**Subject:** temporary sheltering

From John Dublin, Florence resident.

To Florence Mayor and Council:

As you consider sheltering policies, I urge you to first consider the effect of any policy that could damage established businesses and property values, and the potential harm to families and the most vulnerable, children and seniors. Protecting their rights, safety and property must be the highest priority of any sheltering policy.

I further urge you to not provide more accommodation than what is required by statutes and court rulings.

Most wandering vagabonds are a burden and contribute nothing to this community, and should be the lowest priority allowed by statute and law.

The best policies are those that discourage problem people from dropping anchor in Florence.